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American School  
of Classical Studies  
at Athens

THE EXCAVATIONS AT CORINTH IN 1896<sup>1</sup>

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[PLATES XIV-XVII]

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A SOMEWHAT more detailed account of the work of the American School at Corinth in the spring of 1896 than that given in the *Fifteenth Annual Report* of the School seems called for. Dr. Babbitt will give an account of Trench XVIII, which brought to light the ancient theatre; and Mr. De Cou will do the same for Trench XIV, which revealed the foundations of a building of perhaps the time of Hadrian, with a well-worn street in front of it. Of the other trenches enough is here submitted to explain their object and the results yielded by them.

It is to be understood that our work was wholly tentative, the object being to find some important point of the ancient city around which in the future systematic excavations might be made. Dr. Dörpfeld's excavations in 1886 were limited to the recovery of the ground plan of the well-known Old Temple, and the excavations of Mr. Skias, undertaken in 1892 for the Greek Archaeological Society (see *Πρακτικά* for 1892) in the hope of finding there the ancient agora and distant about a quarter of a mile to the east of the temple, had failed of their object. When we began, nothing in the broad area enclosed by the city walls was fixed; even the temple lacked a name.

In pursuance of our object we dug, between March 23 and June 8, twenty-one trenches of varying lengths and depths, starting usually with a breadth of 3 m., and narrowing slightly

<sup>1</sup> A brief report of the work of 1897 is given in this JOURNAL, pp. 110-112, above.

as we went down. These trenches will be here spoken of in the order of their numbering, which is approximately the order in which they were begun. In some cases several trenches are included under a single number, as when side trenches were made as an afterthought, while in some cases several trenches which might on account of their contiguity properly have been included under a single number, as III, IV, and V, or VI and X, are given under separate numbers because this contiguity is the result of the progress of the work.

One condition of the tentative nature of our work was that we had to make our peace with the landowners, which brought with it the obligation of filling the trenches at the end of our work. This obligation we fulfilled except in the case of Trenches III, VI, VII, VIII, X, XIII, and XVIII, securing exemption in the case of III and VI from the fact that they were in roads little used. In the other cases we applied to the government to expropriate the land for further work, except in the case of XIII, which the owner leaves open for his own convenience, hoping to build a store there and to use the large, but unimportant, foundations as the foundations of his new building. Of the trenches that were filled, V and XIV were the most important. These we filled because V was in a considerably used thoroughfare, and XIV for the same reason, and from the consideration that we were not ready to ask for the expropriation of the adjacent field in which the building lay, until we had operated at other points.

Another disadvantage from the conditions upon which we proceeded was that we could not begin where we wanted to. We should have liked, for example, to begin at the spot where we subsequently found the theatre; but while the proprietors of the land there, as in other places, were willing to let us excavate, yet considering our extremity their opportunity they demanded impossible prices for the grain still two months from the harvest time. Possibly it might have been a good policy to pay the high prices in the first instance rather than lose

time in less promising places; but foreseeing that we should probably have to make trial in many places before opening a regular excavation campaign, it seemed to us best to avoid setting a precedent of exorbitant prices which would be difficult to depart from when once set.

The Greek Government could not be asked to step in and buy land for excavations until assured of the fact that it covered ancient remains of importance; and we wished to assure ourselves of this fact before making the request, since it would be the height of extravagance without this assurance to ask for the purchase of fields, when the greater part of the purchase money would ultimately come out of our excavation fund. Accordingly several days were spent in perplexity. Hope on the part of the landowners that in their fields something of value might be found which would then belong to them was all that we could appeal to in order to stop their exorbitant demands. And the process of making our peace with them was by no means easy.

**Trench I.** — At last the owner of a bean field was found whose demands were, from our point of view, less exorbitant, simply because beans were worth much less than wheat or even barley; accordingly we accepted his terms, and went to work. We started at a point about 300 feet from the northern edge of the lower (northern) terrace of the two on which the ancient city, like the modern village, lay. We were attracted to this point by a Doric column, about 3 feet in diameter, which protruded about 3 feet from the soil, apparently so exactly perpendicular as to warrant the belief that it was *in situ*. Farther north, and near the precipice in which this terrace abruptly falls off into the plain below, which itself extends to the sea, was apparent the drum of another Doric column turned on its side, of even larger proportions than those of the extant temple; and near this were other architectural fragments protruding from the ground. Leaving the big column drum and the adjacent blocks a little to the east, we directed Trench I from the first mentioned column down straight to the precipice

and at right angles to it. During the first day we discovered that the column which was our point of departure rested on nothing but earth; yet we went on carrying our trench down to virgin soil, which we here found at an average depth of 2 m. Although we found some house walls with stucco of red and blue, the result of this trench was almost purely negative, viz. the conviction that we were not on a field with important remains. We did, however, find near the northern end of the trench, in two groups, thirty-five pieces of columns, fluted and unfluted, from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 feet in diameter, and of lengths varying between 4 and 7 feet. These, with the exception of ten which were unfluted, were of the Ionic or Corinthian order. They were not *in situ*, but had been laid on their sides to form, apparently, the foundation of some later building, or possibly a temporary battery protecting the ascent of the terrace, where there is a break through which a modern road proceeds. The semicircular arrangement of the northern group looked like an apse of a building, but no traces of a superstructure remain, and we seemed in the side trenches to come to the end of each of the groups. Considering also the group of architectural fragments further east, including the large Doric column drum, which could not well have served as foundations, the hypothesis of a fortification is perhaps to be preferred.

The chief significance of such a collection of columns is that they point to the proximity of a stoa or some other building. As we subsequently found the theatre at no great distance to the south, they may have come from a stoa in the rear of this. In this aspect the trench has gone beyond a merely negative result in its suggestiveness.

**Trench II.** — Before finishing with Trench I. we had begun work on a low hill, also on the edge of the precipice above mentioned, about 50 m. to the west of Trench I. The series of trenches dug here is designated as Trench II. As the hill was hollowed out and had the form of a horseshoe opened toward the precipice, it seemed to us, groping as we were for

some fixed point, a possibility for the Odeum (Paus. II, 3, 6). Water issuing from the foot of the cliff would then answer very well to the spring of Glaucé (*ibid.*).

We first dug a trench from the edge of the cliff, of the usual width (3 m.), 30 m. long, through the supposed orchestra, perpendicular to the chord formed by the supposed stage, or in other words to the edge of the cliff. In the prolongation of the same line, starting from the outside of the ring to the south, we dug a similar trench 10 m. long, toward the former one, and another trench at right angles to these, starting at the interval between their ends, to the eastern edge of the ring, a distance of 35 m., but nowhere did we find traces of an enclosing wall, or seats, or the floor of an orchestra. It appeared that the ring was made by throwing up earth from the outside as well as inside, making at the same time a rampart and a dry moat, both of which had become obscured by many years of ploughing. Here, then, as in Trench I, we seem to have traces of a mediaeval fortification. But the core of the hill was found by an elevation of the rocky cliff. A surprise awaited us here. We found the soft stone, which we struck at a depth of about a metre in the first and third of these trenches, honeycombed with rock-cut graves of various shapes and sizes, and at various angles to one another. Some had their greatest dimension from north to south, but the prevailing direction was from east to west. Some were arched, and nearly all were covered with a slab. Remains of human bodies were found in most of them. About half of these contained pottery; but it was all coarse, unglazed, unpointed red ware, which could lay no claim to great antiquity. It is possible that these graves are more ancient than their contents, and were old Corinthian graves rifled by the Roman settlers to fill Rome with *νεκροκορίθια* (Strabo, VIII, 23), and then put to a secondary use by the generation which plundered them. We opened in all thirteen graves. One was cut entirely below the level of the others, and ran partly under two of them, so that here our hope was especially keen that this might have escaped plunder and might

yield something of value; but its contents differed in no respect from those of the others.

On the face of the cliff, at a level of about 1 m. below the bottom of the lowest grave, was a well-laid mosaic of red, blue, and white. The pattern consisted of a double meander enclosing a series of lozenges. This made a border about 0.50 m. in breadth. In front of this a little of a large leaf pattern appeared, but this had been so broken away by quarrying to supply stone for the railroad that little could be made of it. The mosaic extended about 5 m. along the edge of the cliff, and seems to have been the floor of a room or porch laid out with reference to the graves behind it.

At the end of one week we moved the field of our operations up into the modern village, which lies on the declivity between the upper and lower terraces, spreading out a little upon each. The village priest assured us that nobody would object to our digging in one or two of the less frequented streets, if we would fill the trenches afterwards. From this point to the end of the season we took the Old Temple as the one certain landmark of the ancient city, and kept near it in the belief that around it we were most likely to find some important remnant of the ancient city.

**Trench III** (Fig. 1 and PLATES XV, XVI). — In a little-used road running eastward from the temple we dug from the edge of the ledge on which the temple stands, down across the valley running north and south, until we came to the road which leads from the Plane Tree Square up to the Panagia church. This valley seemed a pocket into which something from the temple and its surroundings might have fallen. This trench did, in fact, prove to be one of our most productive trenches. The accumulation of soil here was very great, and we found the width of the road barely sufficient for us to carry down our trench to a depth of 5 m., at which we reached an ancient pavement. Fortunately a cross-road at about the middle of the trench was at our disposal when we wished to push out a little further to the south at an important point; but we had to remove a

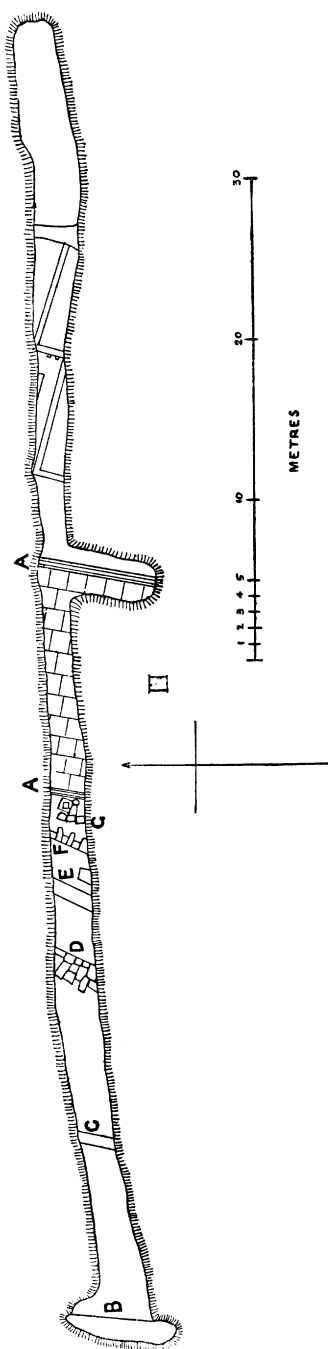


FIGURE 1. — PLAN OF TRENCH III.

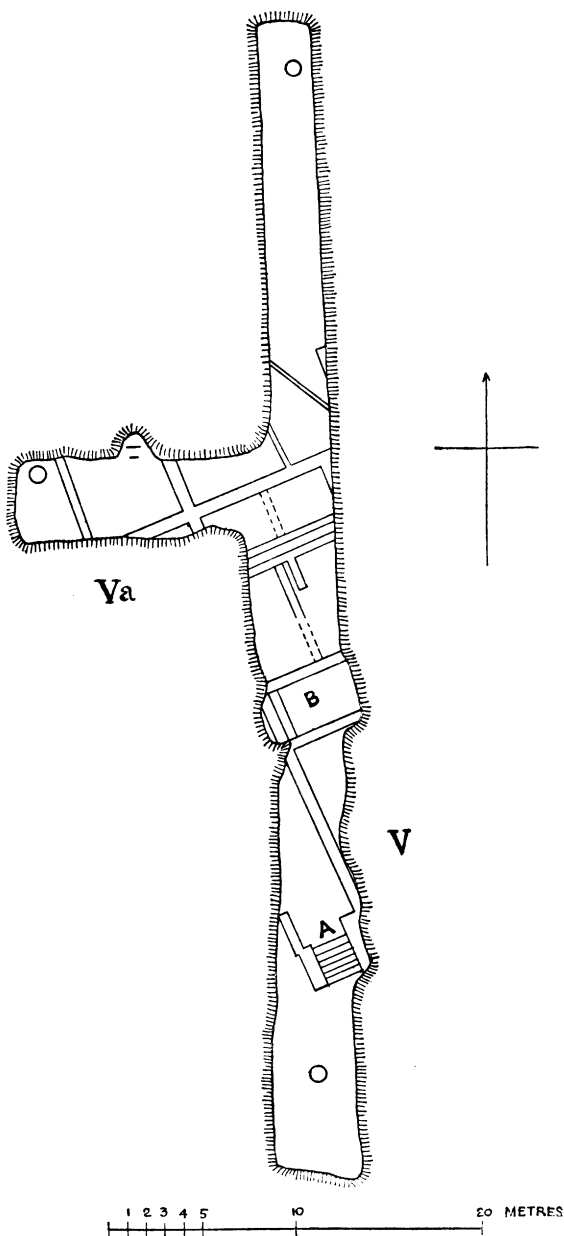
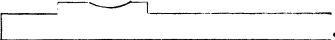


FIGURE 2. — PLAN OF TRENCH V.



mountain of earth of our own making in order to do this. The pavement ran nearly at right angles to our trench, and so in the direction of the length of the valley. It was made of quadrangular blocks of hard white limestone about 1 m. square, and was 12.57 m. wide. At its sides were two water channels, A, A, set in courses of the same material, slightly raised (0.025 m.) above the surface of the pavement. A cross-section of one of these borders is like this<sup>1</sup>: .

The groove for water is 0.115 m. deep and 0.36 m. broad. The width of the pavement, including this border, is 14.03 m., too great a space to be spanned by a roof without interior supports, and so there was probably an open passage here up and down the valley. The lack of wheel tracks makes it appear rather a place of gathering and passing of people. Since the ground to the east and west of it is filled with walls, it seems to have been an open space provided with water in an important part of the city. It may be either a part of the agora or of an avenue leading into it. As the valley broadens immediately above (south of) our trench, we may hope to find the agora there. We followed the eastern watercourse 4 m. in that direction. Traces of the pavement, somewhat broken up, we found in Trenches IX and XII, where on the higher ground the accumulation of earth was not so rapid. Also in XVI we found a pavement of a different sort. The large column drum at the west end of Trench VII seems to belong to some monument suitable to an agora.

At the west end of our trench we found the face of the ledge quarried perpendicularly 3.40 m. (B on Plan). At a depth of 2.90 m. the hard limestone ceased, and there succeeded a layer of soft disintegrating sandstone, such as one sees at the edge of all the terraces in this neighborhood wearing away under the action of the weather and letting the harder stratum above it crack and tumble down over it. We cleared the face of the rock for a length of 5 m. and found it uniformly cut straight down. At 10.50 m. from the face of the rock we came upon a

<sup>1</sup> This is also seen in PLATE XVI.

wall (C) nearly at right angles to the trench, 0.68 m. thick, made of good-sized blocks fitted without clay or mortar, and resting partly on filling material. In the space between this and the next wall (D), a distance of 9.30 m., was a good deal of filling material, mostly chips of the same material as the temple. This second wall was evidently a strong retaining wall. It is 2.15 m. thick, and on its lower or eastern face it measures 4.30 m. from the native soil on which it rests to the top. It consists of four regular courses, followed by five somewhat broken courses, the last of which reached to within about 1 m. of the present surface of the soil. Its presence to the south of our trench is made manifest by a long ridge extending along the slope of the hill about halfway up. The western face of this wall has only six courses preserved, and as the ground from which it starts is higher than that of the eastern face (the contiguous ground here had fully as steep a pitch as the present surface), it has a height of only a little over 2 m. The stones of the wall are of varying sizes; but a fair sample block measured 0.90 m.  $\times$  0.75 m.  $\times$  0.375 m. They are laid without mortar or cement. The layers of filling between this and the first-mentioned wall are nearly horizontal, which shows that the filling was part of a plan, and not a casual accumulation of chips. Below this material, and close to the original surface, were some fragments of black glazed ware and "Samian" red ware, and a loom weight stamped NIKO. In the eastern face of the wall are three holes, apparently beam sockets, 0.12 m. wide, 0.15 m. high, 0.10 m. deep. At a distance of 3.25 m. follows a third wall (E), 0.64 m. thick, of rough work, with tiles inserted between the stones, which are irregularly laid. It looks like a house wall.

One more wall (F), considerably disintegrated, intervenes between this wall and the western edge of the pavement of white limestone, and between the eastern face of this wall and the pavement there is a well (G), with a rectangular curb of small stones, tiles, and mortar; but at a depth of a few feet this gave place to the solid stone work of a circular well. We

cleared this out until we came to water at a depth of 3.40 m. below the well curb, 7.5 m. below the surface of the soil. Nothing of importance was found in it.

Between the pavement and the west end of the trench several walls, mostly house walls, were laid bare; two are, however, quite massive, and of good Greek work. There is no doubt that we are here among walls that precede Mummius' destruction. Whether the pavement antedates that event is not certain, but it is not improbable. As one stands on this pavement and looks toward the Old Temple, one realizes that the latter originally stood on a considerable height. It would hardly have appeared at all to a person standing on this original surface of the soil, even if no buildings stood in the way.

The chief significance, then, of Trench III is that it seems to point out the agora; for since the discovery of the theatre it is certain that the heart of the city lay on and about the dividing line between the two terraces already referred to. The valley up and down which the limestone pavement runs is the only natural and easy communication between the two terraces, which are elsewhere throughout their whole extent separated by a more or less abrupt precipice. It is quite likely that we have struck the best preserved part of the agora, which was perhaps situated in the narrower and most deeply covered part of the valley. This would naturally spread out above or below the narrow part, perhaps both above and below. In case it extended above, a road leading from the agora to Sicyon would leave the Old Temple on the right, and this would therefore be the temple of Apollo (Paus. II, 3, 5), which appears from Herodotus (III, 52) to have been the important temple of Corinth in the time of Periander, a hypothesis with which the style of the temple harmonizes perfectly. It is also to be noted that a few paces north of our trench is the main square of the modern village, which was also the agora of the Corinth that was destroyed by the earthquake of 1858. It seems, then, as if we had here a striking exemplification of the permanence of the features of an ancient

city when its location was originally dependent on the configuration of the soil.

**Trench IV.** — This trench was about 30 m. long, and followed the line of the same road in which Trench III was dug, being separated from this only by the road from the Plane Tree Square to the Panagia church. Bending with the road as it ascends the hill, the last 6 m. of the trench turn almost in a northerly direction. Five walls appeared in this trench, none of them, perhaps, older than the Roman period, all running nearly at right angles to the main direction of the trench, *i. e.* parallel to the valley and the hillside. But none of these walls seemed important enough to warrant an outlay of labor in following them up. At the lower end of the trench we found a sort of pocket formed by cutting into the rock core of the hill — a quarrying operation probably, like that carried on at the western end of Trench III. In clearing out this pocket we went down to a depth of 5.40 m. Vase fragments were found here all the way down, including a few of the Proto-Corinthian and Dipylon styles.

**Trench V** (Fig. 2). — This trench, a continuation of IV after a slight interval in which the rock came so near the surface as to relieve us from the necessity of digging, proceeds down the Schoolhouse hill in a nearly northerly direction, beginning at a point near the top where the ledge practically comes to the surface. Its length is 62 m., and at its lower end the ledge reappears. At a distance of 5 m. from the upper end is a well-like opening 0.73 m. in diameter cut in the ledge, and opening at a depth of about 1 m. into a natural cave on its east side with axes measuring 2, and 1.50 m., and a height of 1.20 m. A similar shaft, only much deeper, at the other end of the trench led into a similar cave. In view of the use of similar openings for burial in V<sup>a</sup> we may suppose that these also once served this end, although the caves contained nothing to corroborate this supposition. But as their entrances were always on or near the surface they would invite rifling. At a distance of 9.80 m. from the upper end of the trench is the top step of a

flight of seven steps (A) of comparatively late date, made up of marble, limestone, and *poros*, no step being made of a single block. The height of each step is about 0.24 m. and the depth 0.30 m. The width of the flight is 2.10 m. This flight of steps probably replaced an older one, since the ancient ground rises here so rapidly as to demand steps for any thoroughfare. The width of the street into which the steps lead down is 3.03 m. The wall to the west of the street has above its foundation three courses of blocks 1.15 m. long and 0.46 m. high. As 0.46 m. is also the height of four courses framing the steps on the west side and of two courses on the east side, all these blocks would seem to be old. The wall to the east of the street has a low *poros* course let into the bed rock. Above this is one *poros* block 1.10 m. long and 0.70 m. high, the only stone surely *in situ* above the foundation, the wall in general being made up of all sorts of material, small and large stones, and brick fragments, laid in clay. About midway between the steps and the extension of the trench toward the west designated as V<sup>a</sup> was a room (B) with a frontage of 2.65 m. on the east side of the street. Its three walls which we uncovered are coated to a height of 0.55 m. with fairly fine black stucco and have a yellow-white horizontal band 0.105 m. above the floor. Fragments of stucco of other colors, red and blue, were found in and near this room. At the end of the room next to the street is a large limestone block against the wall filling the whole width of the room, and having a height of 0.30 m. and a front receding toward the top, elaborately moulded. This appears to have been put here to facilitate the passage from the room to the marble door-sill which lies about 0.60 m. above the floor, and was probably put in its position at a remodelling of the entrance when the street in front was made higher. The stucco on the walls is continuous behind the block. The accumulation of soil here has been considerable, the floor of the room here described being 3.10 m. below the present surface. In this part of the trench we found two Doric capitals of different sizes with several

drums, as well as one Ionic capital. The whole hill was probably built over in ancient times, as the other trenches at the edges of the hill showed. As a large marble architrave block of the Ionic order, long ago known but reëxcavated by us, lying adjacent to the north wall of the schoolhouse, bears a Latin inscription referring apparently to *decem tabernas* (*C.I.L.* III, 534), some of the walls here discovered may be identified with these. They were foundations of later houses running at various angles with the old buildings in Trench III, and these foundations, flimsy as they are, reach down in most cases to the ancient level. Probably fear of earthquakes prompted a deep construction (Skias, *l.c.*).

It was at the west end of the side trench, V<sup>a</sup>, that a shaft was found leading to a grave with important primitive pottery.<sup>1</sup> Subterranean passages were excavated which led from these graves to other shafts near by, this part of the hill being honeycombed with a burial place of very ancient date. In this case we were fortunate enough to get a remnant of the abundance which was once here. In the well at the north end of V was found a marble shin which reminded one of Aeginitan workmanship.

**Trench VI.** — Simultaneously with the work in III, IV, and V we also dug a trench in the road leading northward from the Plane Tree Square: but apart from the discovery of the same pavement which appeared in III this yielded little result, though carried down to virgin soil at a depth of about 5 m. It was subsequently enlarged to the west by Trench X. At the north end of Trench VI was found a very carefully wrought thigh with something adhering to it which may be the cloven foot of a *nebris*.

**Trench VII** (Fig. 3 and PLATE XVII). — Work was interrupted on April 2 by the Easter holidays and was not resumed until April 15, because the Olympic Games which intervened proved to be of such absorbing interest. In the mean time I had secured permission from the brothers Rangos to allow us

<sup>1</sup> See above, pp. 313-332.

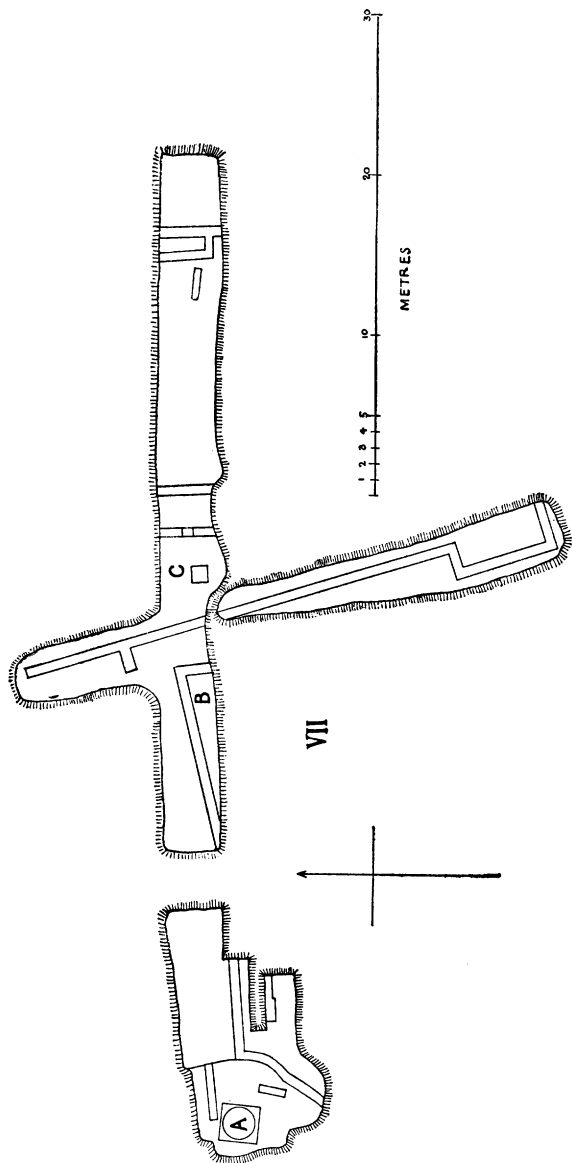


FIGURE 3. — PLAN OF TRENCH VII.

to excavate in the one large lot in the middle of the village that was vacant both of buildings and crops. Here we were relieved from the oppressing narrowness of the street limits in our former work and could locate our trenches according to judgment. Trench VII ran from east to west, starting at a point in the road from the Plane Tree Square to the Panagia church, where Skias (*l.c.* p. 122) had uncovered an enormous column drum, and extending up a hill to the eastern limit of the lot, a distance of 60 m. On the west side of the street, in a part of the same lot, we dug a north and south trench, designated VIII, 50 m. long. Both these trenches were near the place pointed out by the results of Trench III as the probable situation of the agora, and our results here rather supported this supposition. The drum (A) formerly partially uncovered by Skias was soon found, at about 1 m. below the surface of the road, and cleared down to the bottom of the foundation on which it rested. This is an unfluted *poros* drum, 2.10 m. in diameter and 1.34 m. high. (See PLATE XVII.) It rests upon three horizontal courses, each about 0.40 m. thick, which make a rather weak-looking foundation for so massive a column, for a column it evidently was, if the report of the inhabitants can be trusted, who were unanimous in the statement that within the memory of middle-aged persons two drums of the same diameter, but not so high, had been taken away by blasting with powder, and used for building purposes. Some stones purporting to be pieces of these drums were shown in the wall enclosing the house to the west, almost covering the drum now remaining. This slight foundation made us doubtful whether the column could have formed a part of a temple, since a temple with such columns should have something more massive in the way of a stylobate. The mere fact that the horizontal layers were found only directly under the drum did not seem conclusive, since it was conceivable that a stylobate might be broken up all around the column while the weight of the column itself would protect the part beneath it from such a fate. We accordingly dug in



two directions at such distances as to strike another column if such existed, but with negative results. It appears, accordingly, that this was a single column, perhaps supporting some trophy. This also might be an indication that we were within the limits of the agora. But as we have not yet attained absolute certainty, we shall hope to explore in the other two possible directions, northeast and northwest, at some future time. It may prove that this is a part of a gateway leading into the agora, on the road from Cenchreae. At all events we found, in breaking up a wall built up in later times against this column, among several other marble blocks with inscriptions, a large block with the fragment of an inscription OLON<sub>1</sub>, in letters 0.12 m. high, doubtless to be understood as a part of the title of the Corinth of Julius Caesar, *i. e.* "Colonia Julia." This block, which probably belonged to some entablature, may have been put up over a gateway. At any rate, it may have been connected with some public building in or about the agora.

To the east of the drum we had to fill up our trench and lay out there the road which we had broken by our digging about the drum. Still farther east we struck the corner of a building (B) with a wall 0.70 m. thick, and a good mosaic floor. Then at an interval of 2 m. came a wall of the same thickness running diagonally to the trench. This we laid bare by a cross-trench along its whole length of 35 m. At the southern end it shows a bastion-like projection, and then makes a right angle, the wall turning to the east. Just before the turn there are three very large blocks which have their faces covered with red stucco, and which from this token appear to have been brought from another building to be incorporated into this one. The wall, though fairly well built, loses itself gradually at its north end. No cross-wall appeared in the whole extent of this long wall.

Two metres east of this appeared a vertical shaft (C) of elliptical contour, with sides finely coated with stucco and provided with foot-holes on each of its long sides. At a depth of 3 m. below its mouth, which was about 3 m. below the surface

of the soil, appeared a horizontal passage leading southwest in the direction of Trench VIII. From this passage, which we cleared to a distance of 20 m., came many fragments of red-figured ware. At the opening of the perpendicular shaft were found several pieces of terra-cotta figurines of a chocolate-colored clay, the principal piece being the head and breast of a naked flute-player with a round cap and distended cheeks, in the act of blowing the flute, which is broken off close to his lips. Beside this were recognizable a leg resting on a round basis and an ithyphallic abdomen, but it is not certain that any of these fragments belong together, the two latter pieces being too large for the head.

Farther east were a few walls, which were not earlier than the Roman period. Of single finds, we may catalogue several late fragments of inscriptions, a small and poor funeral relief, a foot of a life-sized female statue, as delicate as Trilby's foot, with a little drapery over the instep, and a pretty head of Aphrodite of red terra-cotta.

**Trench VIII** (Fig. 4).—This trench revealed a great many walls most of which appear to belong to buildings of the Hellenic period. A minute description of these would be tedious, and is less necessary as our work here is not final and the trench lies open. It seemed worse than wasteful to pay three hundred drachmae for filling a piece of excavation so well begun in VII and VIII, and I have designated the Rangos lot as land to be expropriated by the government along with the area in the neighborhood of Trenches III and XVIII. Further excavation here will enable us to give something connected and intelligible.

A principal feature of the trench was its four wells and two rectangular shafts, one of which led into a horizontal passage to the west. All of these we cleared to a certain distance. The second well (A) from the south end was particularly prominent in its yield of vase fragments almost exclusively of red-figured ware. Almost at the south end, at the mouth of a rectangular shaft (B), between two walls was found a

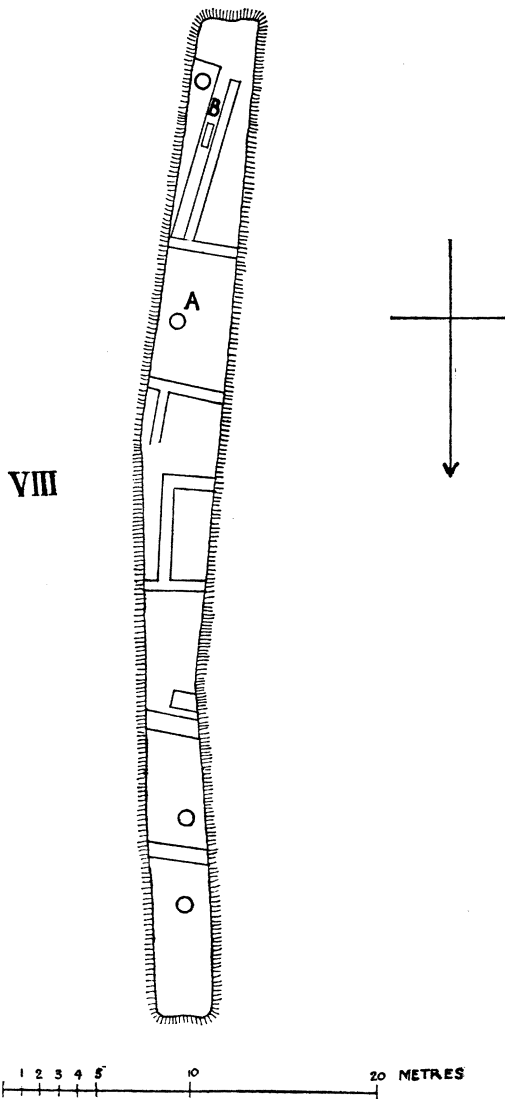


FIGURE 4. — PLAN OF TRENCH VIII.

marble group about half life size, representing Dionysus, a nymph, and Pan, only the latter retaining its head. The workmanship is fairly good, and the group will be treated in

a separate article. Near by was found the best of our terra-cottas, a head and breast of Athene, 0.10 m. high, with a plumed and visored helmet, and showing traces of blue paint on the drapery. The face is fine and expressive of dignity and strength. With it was found a very primitive terra-cotta horse and rider like those found in great quantity in the theatre. The horse is singular in having only one hind leg and a tail made by pinching out a little of the clay of the body. But, like all the others, the rider's legs and arms are only little pinches of clay adhering to the back and neck of the horse. In this trench, as also in VII and III, were found terra-cotta architectural trimmings painted like those found so plentifully at Olympia. The mouths of the wells were from 3 m. to 5 m. below the surface of the soil.

**Trenches IX and XII.** — These trenches were dug in a field without grain to the south, and a little higher up toward the foot of Acrocorinth than any of the other trenches. Trench IX was farthest to the south, running from east to west, 38.70 m. long, with a depth of from 2.40 to 5.60 m. We found here the hard white limestone pavement of Trench III, but badly broken up. It also showed ruts of vehicles, which seemed to indicate a road leading from the agora, if that is where we supposed it to be, up to Acrocorinth. In order to make sure of the existence of this road still nearer to the supposed agora, we dug Trench XII, which may be viewed as corresponding to IX. It is only 9 m. long and in a line between the middle of the two Trenches IX and III. In this we found the same road as in IX, more broken up than in this, but enough to give us the direction which we sought. In these two trenches we found several Roman walls with mortar and tile fragments inserted between the blocks of *poros*, some of which were evidently of early date, and formerly used elsewhere. The walls in IX were numerous and massive enough to show that we were in the Roman city. Here we found also two wells, one of which, from its careful walling, seemed to be of Hellenic times, and two cisterns. In the partial clearing out of these no important

finds were made. One of the wells was about 60 feet deep, and being covered with a stone contained only a small amount of débris. Judging by the contents of wells and such catch-alls we were farther from the heart of the ancient Greek city than in VIII. Thus, as in the case of I and II we were too far to the north, here we seemed to be too far to the south, and the trenches were filled up as not being important enough to warrant our calling for expropriation. The soil is not deep enough over the ancient level to give great hope of much having been preserved. Still it is not impossible that the clearing of a wide area even here might have good results; but there are more hopeful places.

**Trench X.** — This trench was started a little to the west of VI in the cellar-hole of a house shaken down by the earthquake of 1858 and was soon extended so as to join VI. Our object was to find the mouth of a vaulted passage said to have once been seen running from this cellar under the road to the south up toward Trench III. The north end of VI was filled up with the earth from this new excavation, and what is now left of VI and X is a big deep square hole northwest of the plane tree and close to the road leading west from it past the temple. It was so close to the road that we were obliged, for the safety of the villagers, to build a good stone wall along the two exposed sides of it. We were unwilling to refill it, for it was our deepest digging, and had yielded results which promised something on reopening the campaign. We have accordingly included this in the area designated for expropriation. It is separated only by the road from the strip to be expropriated on both sides of Trench III. The importance of this trench is not in its walls. There are some massive blocks, but no continuous wall of very ancient date. But close up under the road, near to the vaulted passage, which we found, to be sure, but which proved to be such a flimsy and late looking affair that it seemed ready to fall to pieces if we cleared out the earth from it, we found an ancient well, the mouth of which was 7 m. below the road, and in it we came upon pieces of Old Corin-

thian vases. This well was not, like a good many of our other wells, dry, but at a depth of about 1.50 m. we were so troubled by water that we stopped work in it; it was already in the last days of our campaign, and with one man working in a well progress is slow. Hoping that the expropriation would take place speedily, and that I could go out during the summer and clear the well when it was dryer and when there would be no dispute as to the possession of the finds, I yielded reluctantly to the complaint of our one good workman who was employed in the well, that it was impossible to go on. Had I realized the value of our pieces of vases, I should have paid him enough to induce him to work a few more days up to his knees in water. Besides a whole *aryballus* with a row of warriors with shields and spears around its belly, we had found a good many pieces of a large vase (*celebe*) decorated with cocks, lions, and various animals, and different pieces belonging to still other vases. It was not until I had taken time to piece together in the Athenian museum during the early autumn what we had found, that the full importance of the remaining contents of that well came upon me. The big vase with animals has been put together out of more than forty pieces, and little is lacking except the foot. We have, too, a complete little Proto-Corinthian *aryballus*; enough of six Old Corinthian vases to have made a good beginning in piecing them together; fragments of two other *amphorae* of the same size and shape as the one already put together, which, with its lost foot, would be nearly, if not quite, 0.45 m. high. Since practically nothing but this kind of pottery has appeared in this well, it is certain that it was filled up with débris not only long before Mummius destroyed Corinth, but before the Persian War, perhaps back in the days of Periander. There is little doubt that next year we shall bring back to Athens material to complete a substantial addition to the known pottery of Old Corinth, found not in Etruria, but on the spot of its fabrication.

**Trench XI.** — This trench was dug to the east of the last-mentioned one, north of the temple. It started at the foot of

the ledge separating the two terraces, and ran up the hill in a line which, if prolonged, would have cut the temple nearly in the middle. Our hope was to find something here which had rolled down from the temple or its surroundings, and been kept by the accumulating earth. The part of the trench which lies below the road was 52 m. long, and struck the ledge everywhere at a depth of about 3 m. Nothing of interest was found except the walls of a mediaeval church, probably the precursor of Hagios Athanasios, which lies at the foot of the hill, about 8 m. to the west of our trench. Just about opposite the modern church, at the foot of the hill where the earth was somewhat deeper than in the rest of the trench, 4 m. below the surface, there appeared on the west side of the trench a vertical opening to a tomb-like apartment, with door posts and a lintel, 2 m. high, 1.70 m. from east to west, and 1 m. from north to south. This discovery furnished a little excitement just at the close of our work in this trench; but the apartment contained nothing at all. This part of the trench contained many fragments of thick, coarse roof-tiles, 0.625 m. broad. Above the road we dug, as a prolongation of this trench, up into the two small terraces into which the land just below the temple is graded, hoping that we might find a terrace wall of the temple. Not until after the completion of our work here did we learn from one of the oldest inhabitants that this terracing had been done within his recollection. This whole trench, then, had a purely negative result.

**Trench XIII.** — This trench is a deep cut into the west side of the Schoolhouse hill, just a little to the north of Trench IV. As the hill is much steeper here than at Trench IV, we simply cut a big rectangular hole into the hillside, beginning at the road; this hole being 7.65 m. wide, was carried back into the hill 18.65 m. At its east end it was 5.90 m. deep. In the northeast corner, at a depth of 4.10 m., was a good mosaic, the greater part of which, on account of the great depth of earth, we left unexcavated. There was no lack of walls in this area; some were laid over others, but none yielded a clear plan of a

building. The greater part of the stones used are large, carefully cut blocks, which seem to have been used in an earlier connection than that in which they now stand. It is possible that here we see traces of some of the "ten terraces" above referred to.

**Trench XIV.** — The results of this trench were interesting and important, and will form the subject of a separate article by Mr. De Cou.<sup>1</sup>

**Trench XV.** — About 100 m. east of Trench V the cliff which forms the boundary line between the two terraces recedes in a large curve into the upper terrace. Here, in a vacant space among the houses, we made one essay to find the theatre, pending the removal of the grain from our favorite site much further west. We expected a negative result, but even negative results had a certain value in this tentative work, as narrowing down the sphere of our operations, and there seemed to be not many possibilities for a theatre, so that the process of elimination was not an unreasonable undertaking. We dug a big hole back into the hill at about the middle of the curve, sloping it downward so as to strike the bed rock. At the point at which we struck this our cutting was one of the deepest of all; but we did not lay bare much area. We proved the non-existence of a theatre here, a result rather to have been expected from the great size of the curve, which would have been adapted only to a theatre of enormous dimensions, such as was, to be sure, possible in Corinth considering the size of the city and the fact that its theatre is said to have been used for popular assemblies (Plut. *Aratus*, 23). While we found no walls except those of modern houses, we did find at the lowest point of the trench the mouth of an aqueduct, or more probably of a natural spring issuing from the foot of the ledge. Around this lay some vase fragments of the Hellenic period and a terra-cotta horse of the same time, not like the archaic horses mentioned in connection with Trench VIII.

<sup>1</sup> See below, pp. 495-506.



**Trench XVI.** — The grain being harvested to the west of our supposed agora, we started a trench there on April 27. The most important result of this trench, 20 m. long, was the discovery, at a depth of 6 m., of a pavement in three layers, each layer being about 0.10 m. thick. The top layer was of pebbles set in mortar, the second of mortar and marble chips, the third of fine stucco of pulverized *poros*. The different compositions would seem to point to different epochs, the finest layer at the bottom being Hellenic. In the absence of walls, so many renewals would seem to point to a busy haunt of men, and to suggest that we were here in the limits of the agora, especially as XIX also, near by, shows in its eastern end a pavement of hard white limestone, like that seen in III, VI, IX, and XII. Beneath the triple pavement, where we broke it up, we found several fragments of red-figured ware and an archaic bronze bird on a round base, like some of those found on the Acropolis at Athens. Above the pavement was found a fairly good female portrait head, under life size, of Roman times.

**Trench XVII.** — On the west side of the road which passes along the west end of the temple, we dug a trench 25 m. long in the hope of finding an explanation of the hollow sound made under one's feet as one walks along this road. A previous attempt made in the road itself had shown the bed rock at a depth of from 1 to 3 m., and the hollow sound ceased as we went down. To the west of the road we found that the rock fell off a little, and yet we found it everywhere at a depth of less than 2 m., and we had to abandon the thought of finding here a great vaulted chamber like that long known to the south of the temple. From this side the temple did not, as from the three other sides, appear to be on a hill.

**Trench XVIII.** — This trench, started when the harvest was partially finished, resulted in our chief discovery, viz. that of the theatre. Of this Dr. Babbitt will treat in a separate article.<sup>1</sup> Besides the remains of the theatre, the series of trenches here brought to light about two hundred fragmentary terra-cotta

<sup>1</sup> See below, pp. 481-494.

figurines of a very archaic kind, which will also be treated separately. Numerous figures of horse and rider seemed to point to the proximity of the temple of Athene Chalinitis, which according to Pausanias (II, 4, 5) was *πρὸς τῇ θεάτρῳ*. But a great number of female figures, standing, sitting, and reclining on a couch, are all of the Aphrodite type. We seem to have in these objects the discarded *anathemata* from two temples.

**Trench XIX.**—Between the temple and the old sunken church to the south we made diggings, quite near to the latter, in the hope that so old a church might represent some ancient holy place, a trench 22 m. long, from 5 m. to 6 m. deep. But apart from the pavement already mentioned, and a good Ionic capital, it furnished nothing of interest. The pavement may be that of the road leading from the agora to Sicyon. In that case the *δεξιᾷ τῆς ὁδοῦ νὰς Ἀπόλλωνος* (Paus. II, 3, 5) is the present temple ruin.

**Trench XX.**—On May 16, while reconnoitring near the edge of the lower terrace in a field where the grain was freshly reaped, I saw protruding from the ground a column similar to that which led us to dig Trench I. To the east of this, what at first appeared to be a rough stone was seen, on removing the earth around it, to be the worn end of a similar column, upright and just reaching to the surface. We dug about these and at a point about halfway between them, hoping thus to find three columns in line. But before we had gone far in this search for a third column, another appeared so near the second one as to leave no possibility of its belonging to any regular system, and immediately afterwards both columns with which we started were found to rest on nothing but earth, like that at the end of Trench I, although they, like that, stood exactly perpendicular. We accordingly lost all hope of a serious discovery. But in removing some small stones from an old low stone wall about 5 m. to the south, I found another battered top end of a similar column drum, and this was found to rest upon a stylobate

at a depth of 1 m.: but even this stylobate came to an end at a distance of 3 m. to the west and 0.50 m. to the east of the column. This one column may well be *in situ*, and farther investigation here may be fruitful. How so many column drums come to be standing on earth is a riddle.

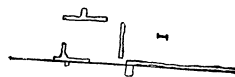
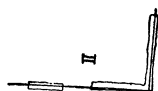
**Trench XXI.**—Our last trial was made on a hill above the theatre at a distance of about 250 m. west of south, in the hope that on this high ground we might find the *ἱερὸν Διὸς Καπετωλίου ὑπὲρ τὸ θέατρον* (Paus. II, 4, 5). We were led to this hill by the fact that several massive quadrangular blocks of *poros* and marble lay on the surface of the ground there, thrown out during the cultivation of the soil, and also a marble anta-capital of the Corinthian order. It is only reasonable to suppose that on this *κορυφή*, near which so many well-wrought blocks were found, there must have been a large building; and what could have been more likely than that that building was the temple *Διὸς Κορυφαίου, φωνῇ τῇ Ῥωμαίων Καπετωλίου* (Paus. *l.c.*)? We may at some time discover the truth by excavating here.

Meanwhile the two important centres for work are in the theatre, where a most obvious duty lies, and in the neighborhood of Trench III, where we may hope to prove the location of the agora. Later the whole region of Trench XIV must be taken in hand where the baths of Hadrian (Paus. II, 3, 5) with interesting contents may be found. In the first campaign we have done the pioneer work with what may be called gratifying and unexpected success.

RUFUS B. RICHARDSON.

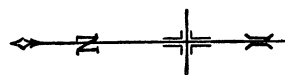
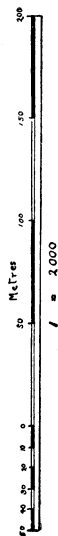
ATHENS,  
November, 1896.

# Excavations at Old Corinth 1896.



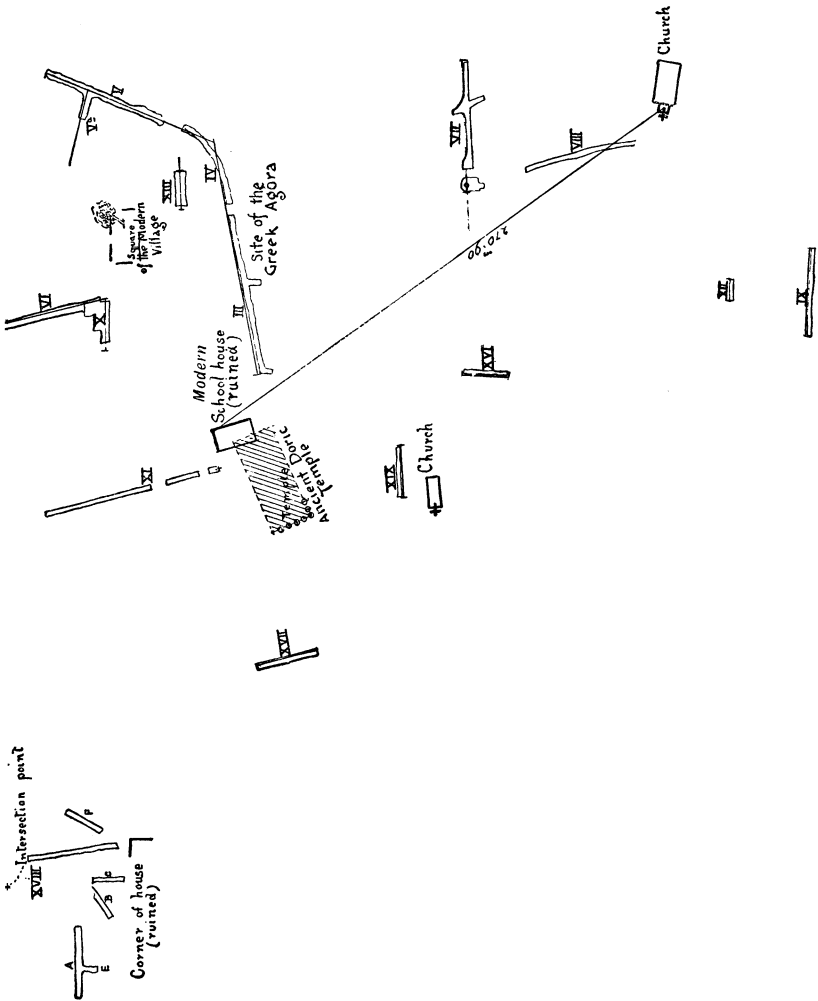
Foundations of columns  
and  
Bases of columns  
see page

XX



XIV  
Large Roman  
Building.

Site of the  
Greek Theatre. /p



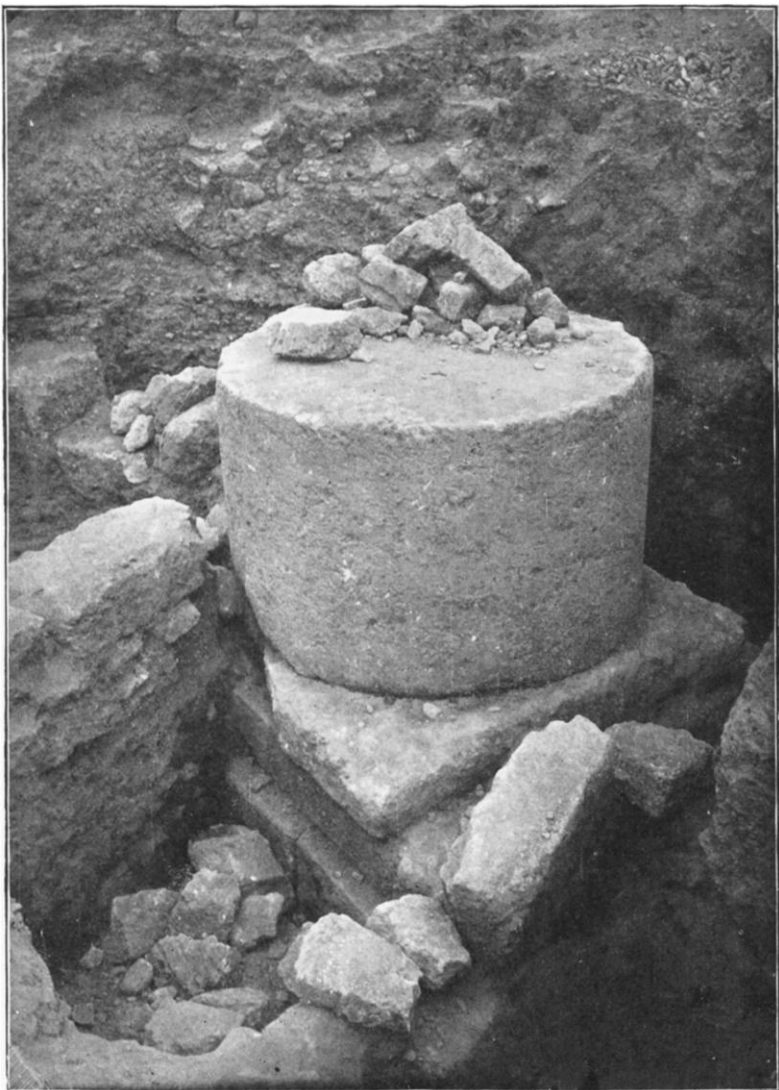


CORINTH

Trench III, in the valley east of the Temple. Paved way (40 feet broad) in the middle,  
15 feet under the surface



CORINTH  
Watercourse in Trench III



CORINTH  
Drum of Column in Trench VII